

# Identified success factors in the process of stakeholder involvement into RENCOPs

**R.EN.CO.P**

Renewable ENergy COoperative Partnership

**Co2mmunity**

Co-producing and co-financing renewable community energy projects

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## 1 Framework of the report

The report is a final (3<sup>rd</sup> part) of Output from Group of Activities 3.1 (GoA 3.1) **Involving stakeholders of the Co2mmunity project** (INTERREG Baltic Sea Region programme). In the project regional RENCOPs - **Renewable ENergy COoperation Partnerships** are established **to stimulate Community Energy (CE) projects** in the Baltic Sea Region. If feasible, the regional RENCOPs will be constituted in the respective national legal framework (e.g. as registered association or cooperative).

Leader of GoA3.1 and for this exercise of identifying success factors in the process of stakeholder involvement into RENCOPs is Green Net Finland. Operational RENCOP activities were implemented in the project regions. Regional RENCOP coordinators (RCs) are responsible for identifying the regional community energy (CE) stakeholders, analysing them, establishing and managing the regional RENCOPs, estimating feasibility of constitution of RENCOP and identifying of success factors in the process of stakeholder involvement into RENCOPs. The work on identifying of success factors was implemented between spring and autumn 2019. The following document gives overview on methodology and results of the survey conducted by GoA3.1 leader – Green Net Finland.

If you want to learn about establishing a RENCOP, mapping and analysing of RENCOP stakeholders, you can download our other reports from the Co2mmunity project web-pages: <http://co2mmunity.eu/outputs/rencop-developments>.

## 2 RENCOPs of Co2mmunity

**Within Co2mmunity project all together 9 regional RENCOPs are established (responsible organisation in the parenthesis):**

GERMANY	Schleswig-Holstein (Heinrich-Böll Foundation Schleswig-Holstein e.V.)
DENMARK	Middelfart (Municipality of Middelfart)
ESTONIA	Tartu (Tartu Regional Energy Agency TREA)
FINLAND	Uusimaa (Green Net Finland GNF) and South Ostrobothnia (Energy Agency of South Ostrobothnia Thermopolis Ltd. and Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia)
LATVIA	Riga region (Riga Planning Region)
LITHUANIA	(Kaunas Regional Energy Agency & Lithuanian Energy Institute)
POLAND	Whole country (Foundation for Sustainable Energy)
SWEDEN	Southeast Sweden (Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden)

## 3 Methodology of conducting of survey

Methodology of the survey was the following, that Green Net Finland developed 10 propositions for other RC:s based on own experiences in a role of RC in Uusimaa region of Finland.

### Propositions of the survey are the following:

1. Creation of atmosphere of cooperation within the partnership.
2. Communications by RENCOP coordinator to the target expert stakeholders of the partnership with tone of asking help in term to achieve common good by cooperative learning and actions.
3. Each member of the partnership is helping teammates to learn, thus creating an atmosphere of achievement.
4. Achieving such effect, that members start to identify their individual and collective efforts within the partnership remarkable.
5. Finding clear focus and defining objective of the partnership.
6. Forming clear, convincing and recommending message toward targeted communities.
7. Existing interest towards renewables of active persons within community.
8. Capability of active persons to convince passive members of the community and lead a process of decision-making towards consensus on investments into renewable energy.
9. Good flow of information across the partnership.
10. Emphasizing the overall positive societal and economic influence of the partnership onto local community.

Survey were conducted via Google Form, which footer looks like this:

## Success factors in the process of stakeholder involvement into RENCOPs

This survey is a part of Group of Activities 3.1 (GoA 3.1) Involving stakeholders of the Co2mmunity project (INTERREG Baltic Sea Region programme).

Green Net Finland is GoA 3.1 leader and so conducting this survey. Operational activities were implemented in the project regions by regional RENCOP coordinator (RC), which is responsible for the process of stakeholder involvement and managing the regional RENCOPs. And so they are asked to reply to this survey.

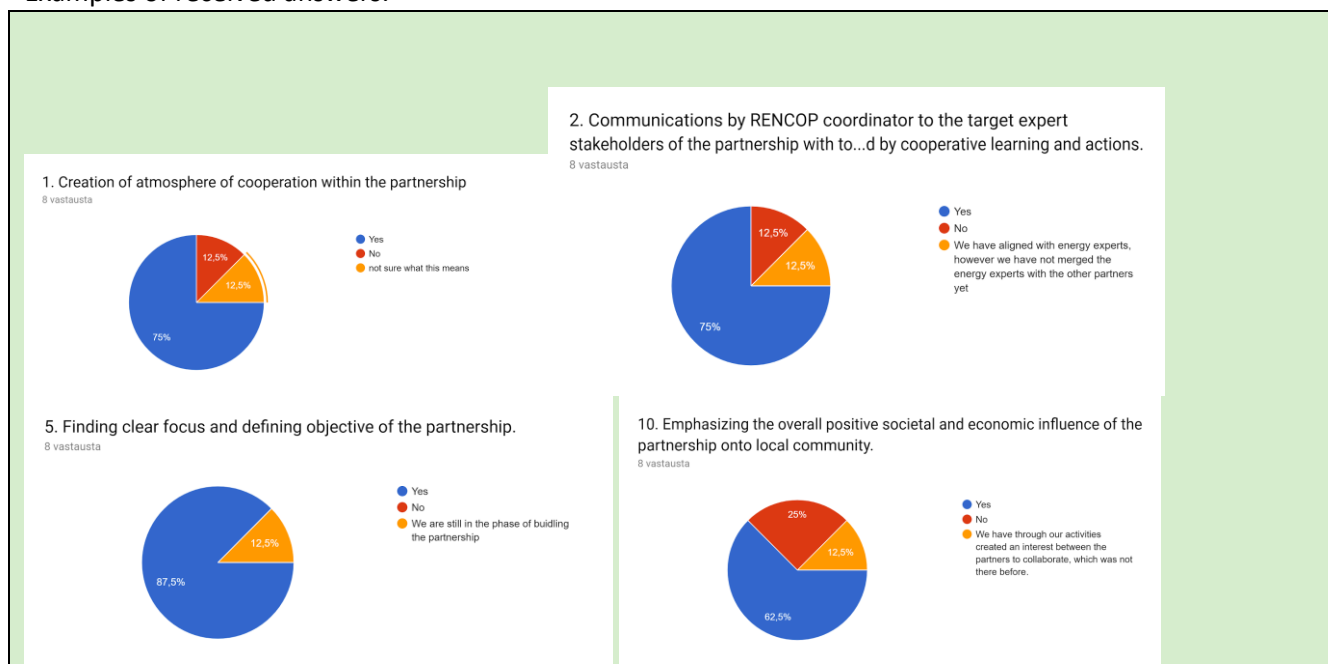
DL for reply is 6 September 2019. Responses will be available in Co2mmunity Google Drive in Google Sheet. Summary on results will be presented by Green Net Finland in Warsaw partner meeting, then added to Handbook and published on Co2mmunity web-site.

GNF is intending to help other RENCOP coordinators to answer to this survey by presenting ten (10) propositions which have been identified during own work as Uusimaa RENCOP coordinator :). If the coordinator would like to give opinion on presented proposition, it could be added into the field under "No" (in finnish "Muu"). Additional identified factors could be added into fields below the field with propositions.

Inspiring answering!

GoA 3.1 Leader - Evilina from GNF

## Examples of received answers:



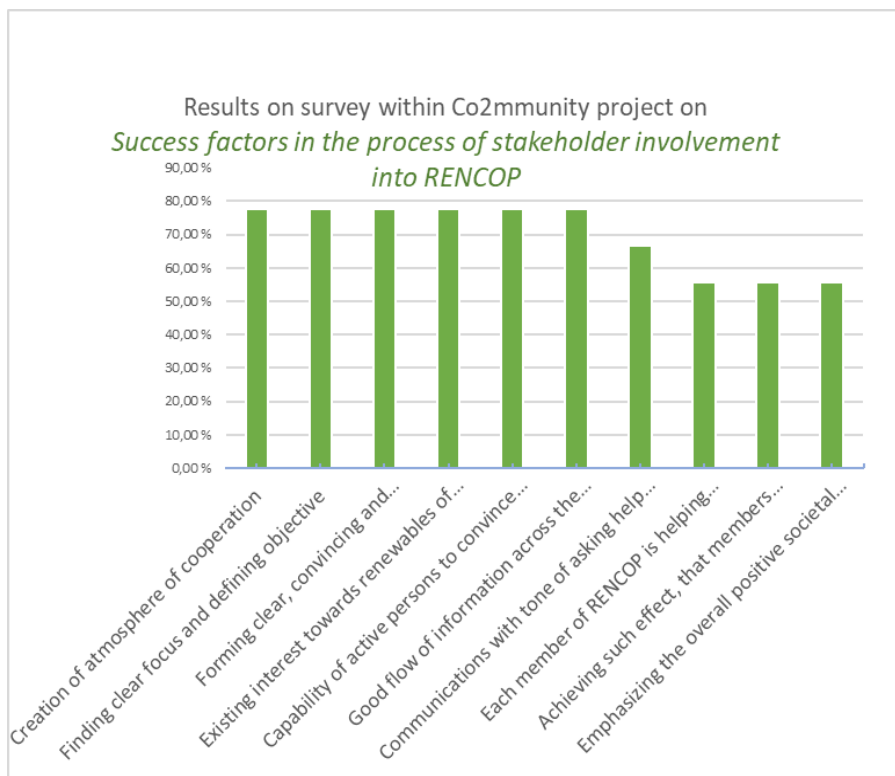
## 4 Identified success factors

Co2mmunity RENCOP coordinators are seeing the most important the following factors:

- Creation of atmosphere of cooperation within the partnership.
- Finding clear focus and defining objective of the partnership.
- Forming clear, convincing and recommending message toward targeted communities.
- Existing interest towards renewables of active persons within community.
- Capability of active persons to convince passive members of the community and lead a process of decision-making towards consensus on investments into renewable energy.
- Good flow of information across the partnership.

Overall percentages of responses are presented in the chart below.

These results on identified success factors in the process of stakeholder involvement into RENCOPs will be utilized in another Co2mmunity output – HANDBOOK.



## 5 Types of Community Energy projects activated within RENCOPs

Status quo on substantial focuses of Community Energy projects activated by Co2mmunity RENCOPs on the date of publishing this document:

- common purchase of geothermal heat pumps by private houses
- fusing the collective organization from district heating companies with individual geothermal heat pumps
- large scale geothermal heat pump as a small district heating system
- common purchase of solar panels
- solar PV plants to housing companies of apartment buildings for utilizing of electricity in common facilities
- solar PV plants for housing associations of social living
- sharing of production of solar PV plant of housing company of apartment building to share owners
- wider range in advancing biomass, biogas, geothermal heat and solar energy in rural area
- encouraging of using of solar energy to profile itself as solar energy friendly/Co2 self-sufficient city/municipality
- street lighting system on solar PV for private house owners in a small local neighbourhood
- creating a network of “multipliers” i.e. civil society groups who are not really engaged in the climate issue, but are rooted in the local societies, which during the project implementation phase, through joint activities are linked to specific energy specialists

(wind/solar/biomass/district heating) to a strategic RENCOP. Depending on the local place the stakeholders decide for themselves on what local energy source/technology would be relevant in each specific local Co2mmunity RENCOP.

## 6 Summary on expert composition of Co2mmunity RENCOP

Expert stakeholders of Co2mmunity RENCOPs are:

- scientist/researchers/other experts on renewable and community energy (RE/CE), including renewable energy service or technology providers
- local or regional public authorities with power/ability and interest to positively contribute into realization of community energy/CE projects

Citizens or potential co-owners of Community Energy projects are also stakeholders.

The difference between expert and citizen stakeholders, that experts are seeing to be enhancing/activating side and citizens are expert support receiving side of RENCOP.

Status quo of overall expert composition of Co2mmunity RENCOPs (included all 9 regional RENCOPs) on the date of publishing this document looks like this:

RE/CE experts and/or RE service or technology providers	95
Local or regional public authorities with power/ability and interest to positively contribute into realization of CE projects.	23
Other	15